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U.S. Department of Agriculture - Foreign Agricultural Service - Washington, D.C.

# foreign agriculture circular

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horticultural products

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board • USDA

FHORT 6-83 June 1983

#### HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS REVIEW

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#### EXPORT SUMMARY

U.S. exports of horticultural products during April were \$242 million, 7 percent above a year earlier. This marked the first time that monthly export value in fiscal year (FY) 1983 exceeded the corresponding period in FY 1982. The value of horticultural exports during the first 7 months of FY 1983 totaled \$1.6 billion, \$135 million less than in FY 1982.

The improved export performance in April was generated by a heavier movement of fresh fruit, particularly apples, oranges and grapefruit. Taiwan strengthened its position as the leading importer of U.S. apples with a sixfold increase in uptake during April 1983 compared to April 1982. Total apple shipments to Taiwan through April of FY 1983 were \$26.4 million, 75 percent ahead of last year's pace. A noticeable jump in orange exports to Hong Kong was also registered in April. This was accompanied by a healthy increase in unit price as a result of the weather induced reduction in export availability in California. April grapefruit exports to Japan and France, our two key overseas markets for this commodity, were up 5,600 tons and 6,100 tons, respectively. The heavier volume more than compensated for a 5 percent slippage in export price from a year ago.

For further information on items in this circular, contact the Horticultural and Tropical Products Division, (202) 447-6590. All measures in this report, unless noted otherwise, are metric. One kilogram (kg)=2.2046 lbs., l metric ton=2,204.6 lbs., l liter=0.2642 gallon, and l hectare=2.471 acres.

### MARKET ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

--Spain's labeling regulations for packaged foods have been modified to provide better information to consumers and to align them more closely with labeling regulations of the European Community. The toxic olive oil scandal, and related illnesses and death in 1981 and 1982, probably were also factors behind the modifications. The main provisions of the new labeling regulations are summarized below.

The following information, in Spanish, must be shown on labels: product name; ingredients; weight or volume; shelf life, except for fresh fruits and vegetables and wine; directions for preservation if applicable; identification of manufacturer, packer or importer; and country of origin. Outside containers must show the product or brand name, number and net contents inside the containers, and the name of the manufacturer or importer, if this information cannot be readily determined without opening the containers.

The minimum duration (shelf life) shall be expressed by "to be consumed preferably prior to..." followed by the day and month, in that order, for products with a shelf life less than three months, and the month and year in that order for products with a shelf life of three to eighteen months. Labels for products with a shelf life of more than eighteen months should include the phrase "To be consumed preferably before the end of...". Highly perishable products must show the words "Expiration Date" followed by the applicable day and month in that order.

- All the dates involved (packing, minimum duration, and expiration) must be shown as follows: the day by the applicable digit or digits; the month by its name or by the first three letters or by two digits (from 01 through 12); the year, by four digits or by the last two digits.
- --Non-alcoholic beer imported into the European Community is dutiable at a tariff rate of 15 percent, according to a recent decision by the EC Commission. Four EC member countries had argued for a tariff rate of 24 percent.
- --Colombia has added additional products to the list of items subject to the prior approval system for imports (Horticultural Products Review, October 1982). Horticultural products added are vegetables for planting, brined olives, brined capers, and other brined vegetables, wine, cognac, brandy and similar alcoholic beverages, and concentrated extracts for the manufacture of beverages.
- --The following seed potato varieties may now be imported into Venezuela without testing prior to importation: Sebago, Kennebec, Red Pontiac, and Norchip. Venezuelan authorities had previously required that all seed potato varieties from the United States be tested and approved by the National Fund for Agricultural Research (FONAIA) prior to importation.

--The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), has agreed on common external tariffs within the range of 4 to 10 percent for its member countries. Countries on the Arabian Peninsula, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, are members of the council. The new common tariff rates will be phased in over a five year period beginning September 1983. This means the end of duty-free entry for many products imported into Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Countries will be authorized to establish "infant industry" protective tariff rates of 20 percent. The GCC also agreed to convert the Saudi Arabian Standards Organization into a GCC-wide body and to set up a common customs data bank.

### MARKET PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

--In East Berlin, a hotel menu promotion featuring U.S. products, U.S. product demonstrations, and agricultural symposia were jointly sponsored by the U.S. Agricultural Attache and AGENA, the agricultural import agent for the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The program ran from April 19 to April 22, 1983. Products featured at the menu promotion and demonstrations included U.S. citrus juices, wines, canned peaches and fruit cocktail. Citrus juices and wines were also featured at the symposia.

A good mix of end users, institutes, and importer organizations were present at the symposia. Restaurant guests responded favorably to the menu promotion and the restaurant management judged the activity to be a commercial success.

--The National Food and Agriculture Exposition, sponsored by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) in cooperation with FAS, was held May 17-19 in Atlanta, Georgia. This was the first national food show ever to take place in the United States. Over 400 U.S. firms and associations exhibited at the show, displaying their products to almost 1,000 foreign buyers from Japan, Taiwan, West Germany and elsewhere. The exhibitors included the Cling Peach Advisory Board, Western Growers Association, Sunkist, Ocean Spray Cranberries, Texas Citrus Exchange, the North American Blueberry Council, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

--The Centre, a major importer/wholesaler and retailer in Doha, Qatar, is sponsoring, in cooperation with FAS, a two week promotion in its store in Doha to feature U.S. foods. This event will take place in October 1983. Firms interested in participating should contact Mr. Bruce Salter, General Manager, The Center, P.O. Box 5316, Doha, the State of Qatar; telex 4620; telephone 321-790. Copies of correspondence concerning participation should be sent to Mr. Ted Horoschak, Agricultural Trade Officer, American Embassy Manama, FPO NY 09526. Samples and price lists can be sent air freight to Mr. Salter. All subsequent transactions will be on a commercial basis.

#### COMMODITY UPDATE

--An investigation into the probable economic effects of the termination of import relief on domestic producers of prepared or preserved mushrooms has been instituted by the International Trade Commission following the receipt of a petition filed by domestic producers. Import relief for U.S. producers of canned mushrooms in the form of increased duties has been in effect since November 1, 1980 and is scheduled to terminate on November 1, 1983.

In February, 1982, the President proclaimed certain prepared and preserved mushrooms exempt from the increased duties. These included specialty mushrooms valued at over \$1.60/lb. and whole oriental mushrooms in retail-size containers. Imports of mushrooms under the exempt categories (TSUS 922.56) were expected to account for between 5 and 10 percent of total mushroom imports with Agaricus species, the dominant U.S. variety, constituting the bulk. However, between April, 1982, and March, 1983, 73 percent of canned mushroom imports (including straw mushrooms) entered under the 922.56 categories. These imports included 68 percent of imports from China, 72 percent of those from Taiwan and 82 percent of those from Hong Kong.

--An affirmative determination that canned mushrooms from China are being sold at less than fair value was announced on May 20 by the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce following its preliminary anti-dumping investigation. The estimated dumping margin ranged from 2.17 percent to 55.26 percent of the FOB value with a weighted average of 7.38 percent. A final determination will be made by August 1. (See Horticultural Products Review, Feb. 1983, page 5.)

--Severe drought in Bolivia has caused drastic shortages of potatoes--the staple food--and other major crops. The projected potato deficit is 533,000 metric tons or 70 percent of last season's production. Much of the shortfall will be met by relief shipments of grains.

--In Brazil, the orange crop being harvested in Sao Paulo State is estimated by the agricultural officer at 7.752 million tons (190 million 40.8 kilogram boxes), down nearly three percent from last year's harvest. Sao Paulo State in recent years has accounted for over three-fourths of Brazil's total crop. The number of bearing orange trees in Sao Paulo is estimated to be up three percent over last year. However, excessive rains and the late harvest of the 1982 crop has lowered yields for this season's harvest. Grower price negotiations for this season are nearing completion. In 1982, growers received an estimated \$1.27 per 40.8 kilogram box, compared with the \$2.12 received in 1981. A complete update report on Brazil and other important citrus producers in the Southern Hemisphere is scheduled for the July circular.

--French and Yugoslavian dried prune production in 1983--according to current indications--will fall short of the bumper 1982 crops now estimated at 32,000 tons and 27,327 tons, respectively. Smaller than anticipated fresh plum crops are expected to figure heavily in the decline. New crop production in France will be combined with projected carryover stocks of 9,000 tons as of August 31, 1983, 3,000 tons more than the 1982 carryover.

--New lemon reference prices have been prepared by the EC Commission for the 1983/84 season. The monthly average increase in the reference price over a year earlier is 15.1 percent in terms of European currency units (ECU). Whenever lemons are imported into the European Community at a price below the reference price, a countervailing charge is made. This charge equals the difference between the reference price and the entry price excluding the import duty. Monthly lemon reference prices for 1983/84 are shown below for the EC-9 and Greece converted to U.S. dollars at a rate of 1 ECU=\$0.9155.

		EC-9 Dollars per	Greece
June	1983	35.00	31.85
July	1983	38.61	35.13
August	1983	40.08	36.47
September	1983	35.52	32.33
October	1983	30.97	28.19
November	1983	27.81	25.31
December	1983	28.58	26.01
January	1984	30.01	27.31
February	1984	28.31	25.76
March	1984	28.88	26.28
April	1984	29.34	26.71
May	1984	32.06	29.18

A reference price of \$35.00 per 100 kilos is equal to \$6.03 per 38 pound carton of fruit.

--Argentina has eliminated its 10-percent export tax on fresh apples and pears in response to pressure from the local fruit sector. The tax had been in effect since July, 1982.

The country exported an estimated 230,000 tons of apples and 630,000 tons of pears in 1982. Fresh apple exports are projected to drop during the current season because of reduced supplies, more stringent Brazilian import regulations, and limited European demand. Argentine pear exports during 1983 should increase slightly, given a reduced crop in Europe.

--U.S. imports of bananas during the first 3 months of 1983 were 647,464 metric tons, up 20 percent from the comparable period in 1982. Ecuador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Colombia and Guatemala are the major suppliers of bananas to the United States.

Despite windstorm damage to the banana crops in Guatemala and Honduras last March, U.S. imports from these countries during January-March increased by 57 percent and 9 percent, respectively. All other major suppliers, except Nicaragua, showed gains in shipments to the United States. Banana wholesale prices have risen significantly from around \$11.00 per 40 pound box in May 1982 to about \$14.75 per 40 pound box in May of 1983.

#### THE APPLE JUICE INDUSTRY OF ARGENTINA

Argentina is the foremost foreign supplier of imported concentrated apple juice (CAJ) to the United States. Although its share of U.S. imports has dropped as total U.S. imports increased, the growth of the Argentine industry has been remarkable.

Apple Production: Argentina's apple production is concentrated in Western Argentina, especially in the Rio Negro Valley, about 1,200 km (746 miles) southwest of Buenos Aires. The Province of Rio Negro contributes roughly 70 percent of the total crop, and the nearby provinces of Neuquen and Mendoza compose much of the balance. The combined production of the three areas is over 95 percent of the country's total, as can be seen in the following tabulation (data in metric tons  $\frac{1}{2}$ ):

Province :	1981	:	1982
:	540.000		576 000
Rio Negro:	648,200		576,000
Neuquen:	113,200		120,000
Mendoza:	116,200		82,500
Others:	30,400		25,500
Total:	908,000		804,000

SOURCE: Argentina, Secretaria de Estado de Agricultura y Ganaderia.

Total Argentine apple production in 1983 is estimated at 730,000 tons. The production, processing and marketing of apples and other deciduous fruit dominate the provincial economies of Rio Negro and Neuquen which encompass the Rio Negro Valley producing area.

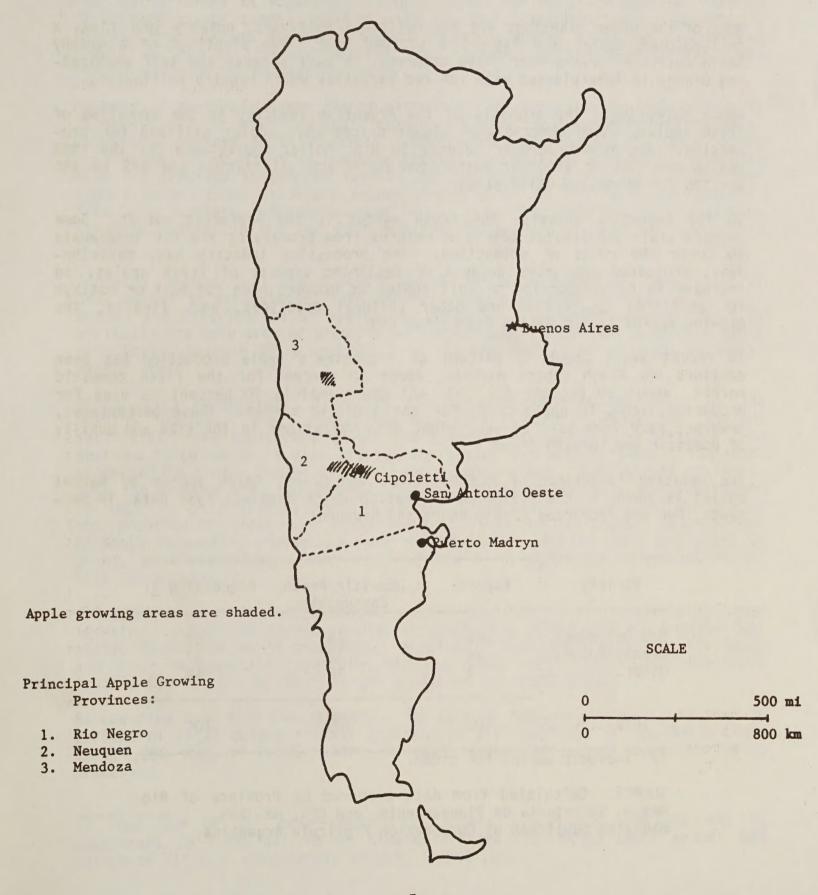
Apple production in Argentina has stabilized. Under optimum conditions the country's output would be about one million tons. Non-bearing apple area was 3,550 hectares in 1982, about 6 percent of the total area planted with apples.

The majority of the apples are grown on farms averaging between 5 and 15 hectares. Irrigation is required. The predominant method is flood irrigation by furrows, as the network of rivers provides a plentiful supply of water and the soil has good drainage. Orchards are surrounded by poplars which provide protection from the intense winds and furnish lumber for packing crates.

All newer plantings utilize the spalding technique in which dwarf trees are trained on wires in a hedge manner. The advantages are ease of harvesting, fertilizer and pesticide application, and increased yields. The dwarf trees are more securely trained in this fashion, particularly from the strong prevailing winds.

<sup>1/</sup> One metric ton is equal to 52.49 42-1b. cartons

#### ARGENTINA



The Red Delicious and Granny Smith varieties now dominate Argentine apple production. In Rio Negro and Neuquen they account for about 55 and 33 percent, respectively, of total output. Rome Beauty is the most important remaining variety but many other types are grown including Red Spur, Black Winesap, Golden Delicious, and King David.

Most of the newer plantings are Red Delicious cultivars, notably Spur Lisa, a full-colored apple; and Rayada, a striped spur. New plantings of a Granny Smith cultivar, Granny Spur, have occurred, in part because the self pollinating Granny is interplanted with the red varieties which require pollinators.

Apple Marketing: The emphasis of the Argentine industry is the marketing of fresh apples, which command much higher prices than apples utilized for processing. Approximate grower returns in U.S. dollar equivalence for the 1983 season are \$160 to \$230 per metric ton for fresh utilization and \$45 to \$80 per ton for processed utilization.

To the Argentine growers, the fresh market is the preferred outlet. Some growers claim the present levels of returns from processing are far inadequate to cover the costs of production. The processing industry has, nevertheless, prospered and grown because of declining exports of fresh apples, an increase in the proportion of cull apples as growers have cut back on outlays for pesticide application and other cultural practices, and, finally, the growing market in the United States for CAJ.

In recent years about 30 percent of Argentina's apple production has been destined for fresh export markets, about 30 percent for the fresh domestic market, about 30 percent for CAJ, and approximately 10 percent is used for producing alcoholic apple cider for the domestic market. These percentages, however, vary from year to year along with variations in the size and quality of domestic and foreign crops.

The relative importance of Red Delicious and Granny Smith apples by market outlet is shown in the following tabulation which displays 1981 data, in percents, for the Provinces of Rio Negro and Neuquen:

Variety :	Export	: Domestic Fresh : Consumption :	Processing <u>1</u> /
Red Delicious.: Granny Smith: Other	57 34 9	68 22 10	49 37 14
Total:	100	100	100

1/ Includes apples for cider.

SOURCE: Calculated from data prepared by Province of Rio Negro, Secretaria de Planeamiento, and <u>CFA</u>, no. 285, magazine published by Corporacion Fruticula Argentina.

In 1981, the processing sector in the 2 provinces utilized approximately 42 percent of total Red Delicious production, 55 percent of the Granny Smiths and 56 percent of other varieties.

The Red Delicious is Argentina's premier apple for fresh consumption, both in the domestic and export markets. It is the preferred import variety in Brazil, the leading Argentine export market. Granny Smith is the leading export variety to European markets, and, because of its high acidity, the choice apple of the processing sector.

However, Argentina's fresh export markets are becoming increasingly difficult to penetrate. If Argentine apple exports are even to maintain current levels, additional markets must be gained. Brazil has imposed more stringent import regulations in an effort to conserve foreign exchange and protect an expanding domestic industry. European imports are not growing. This year's plentiful supply necessitated voluntary export restrictions to the European Community from all Southern Hemisphere suppliers. Argentine exporters are exploring possible markets in the Far East and the Middle East as well as the United States.

Industry sources feel the domestic market has much potential. Negligence of this market is acknowledged, and attempts are being made to improve the promotion and distribution of apples for domestic consumption. Buenos Aires is virtually the only area of significant consumption outside the producing areas principally because of a lack of cold storage facilities in other potential market areas.

Apple Juice Production: Argentine CAJ is produced from the culls of the packing houses. The process varies only slightly among the various facilities. The apples are ground and pressed, the essence is stripped from the raw juice which is then treated for starch and pectin removal, filtered, condensed to proper concentration, cooled and drained. Some plants re-introduce the essence with the concentrate, others prefer not to. The concentrate is kept in cold storage (5°C or 41°F) to prevent browning and to enable the product to travel as unrefrigerated cargo to its export destination. Although processing yields may vary slightly from year to year and plant to plant, on the average, 1 metric ton of raw fruit yields 20.03 gallons of 71° brix concentrate.

CAJ production in Argentina, begun in the late 1960's, is a relatively young industry. Today the country boasts 16 processing plants with evaporation capacity, controlled by 14 companies. Thirteen plants are located in Rio Negro and 3 in Neuquen. In addition, about a dozen small firms grind and press fruit which is sold to these larger companies for evaporation.

No one firm dominates the industry. The largest company produces less than 20 percent of total output. Total capacity of all the firms is reportedly close to 600,000 tons of fresh fruit, or about twice the amount currently being processed.

<sup>1/</sup> One ton of 71° brix concentrate equals 195.34 U.S. gallons and is equivalent to 1,495 gallons of single strength (12° brix) apple juice. One gallon of 71° brix concentrate weights 11.286 lbs.

ARGENTINA: PRODUCTION OF CONCENTRATED
APPLE JUICE (CAJ), 1977-82
(Metric Tons)

1977	22,500
1978	25,500
1979	36,000
1980	39,000
1981	27,000
1982	27,700

SOURCE: Roy Ellard's Food News and U.S. Agricultural Counselor.

The plants operate year round, however 70-80 percent of production of CAJ occurs during the February-May period. During the latter part of the year the plants are processing fruit rejected from cold storage. The table below illustrates the seasonality of the production and marketing of CAJ. Note that marketings, which equal exports, are heaviest in the March-July period.

PROVINCE OF RIO NEGRO, ARGENTINA: SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF CONCENTRATE APPLE JUICE BY MONTHS, 1981 (Metric Tons)

Month	Beginning: Stocks:	Production	:	Marketing	: *	Ending Stocks
January	: : 5,379	389		2,016		3,752
February		1,671		1,076		4,347
March	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	4,646		2,506		6,487
April		4,736		4,456		6,767
May		4,019		4,734		6,052
June		1,210		2,056		5,206
July:	2000 M	1,193		2,061		4,338
August		507		770		4,075
September:		387		383		4,079
October		369		1,898		2,550
November		131		1,293		1,388
December	1,388	88		455		1,021
Total		19,346		23,704		

SOURCE: Province of Rio Negro, Secretaria de Planeamiento

The cost of producing a gallon of concentrate during the 1983 season was roughly \$4.40. This includes labor, energy, fuel, clarifying agents, filtering aids, packaging, and apples at \$60 a ton. However, it is a common complaint among processors that their costs can never be accurately assessed, given the high rate of inflation and the rapid devaluation of the peso.

Most of the concentrate is packaged for export in 58-gallon drums. A high density, high molecular weight polyethylene is imported to construct these containers and is blown into drums locally. Each finished product costs about \$30.

Apple Juice Marketing: The concentrate moves in unrefrigerated trucks from the processing facilities to the port. Land freight rates for CAJ in drums during March, 1983 were \$23 per ton for shipments from Cipolletti, Rio Negro to Buenos Aires and \$29 per ton for shipments to Puerto Madryn. Rates to San Antonio Oeste are expected to be somewhat lower. Approximate ocean freight rates for apple concentrate in drums were (dollars per metric ton):

	Arri	val
Departure :	West Coast : USA :	East Coast USA
Buenos Aires :	135	130
Puerto Madryn or : San Antonio Oeste:	165	165

After mid-1983, most of Argentina's CAJ is expected to be exported from the new facilities at the port of San Antonio Oeste, replacing Puerto Madryn as the principal port of embarkation. CAJ exports from both of these Patagonian ports presently are entitled to a 13-percent export rebate, which more than compensates for the higher ocean freight. CAJ exported through Buenos Aires and other non-Patagonian ports is currently entitled to a 5-percent export rebate. San Antonio Oeste is located 460 kilometers (285 miles) east of Cipolletti, the center of the apple growing area in the Rio Negro Valley.

In addition to export rebates, CAJ exporters are eligible for pre-export financing covering 60 percent of the FOB value of their product. These loans must be repaid in 120 days; the monthly interest rate is 7 percent, which is well below the commercial loan interest rate of 11 percent per month. Further, since January, 1981, producers have been eligible for interest-free dollar denominated loans equivalent to \$180.00 per metric ton of CAJ exported. These loans are to be repaid within 10 years with a grace period of 2 years.

Partially offsetting these subsidies and incentives are the uncertainties created by Argentina's inflation of about 200 percent per year, rapid currency devaluation, and lack of continuity in government economic policies.

The United States usually receives about 85 percent of Argentine CAJ exports. Although the processors are in a seemingly precarious situation, essentially dependent upon the U.S. market, there are few attempts made at diversifying export outlets. U.S. consumption of apple juice has risen substantially since the onset of the Argentine exports, yet the Argentine processors believe that it has not yet reached its saturation point. Further, apple juice imports are currently afforded duty free access to the United States. This is in sharp contrast to the 42 percent ad valorem duty in the European Community.

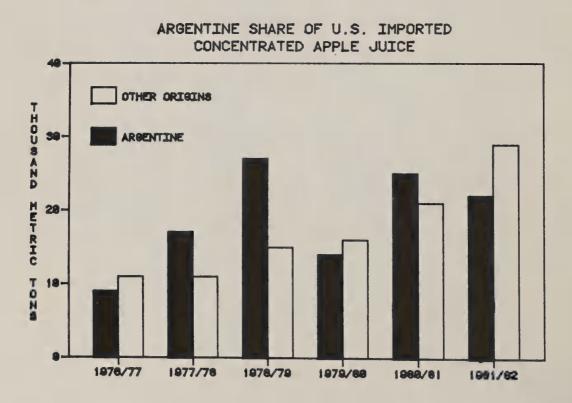
Canada, Sweden, Norway, Brazil and Venezuela are considered minor markets. The domestic market, which currently absorbs no more than 3 or 4 percent of production, is not lucrative for CAJ.

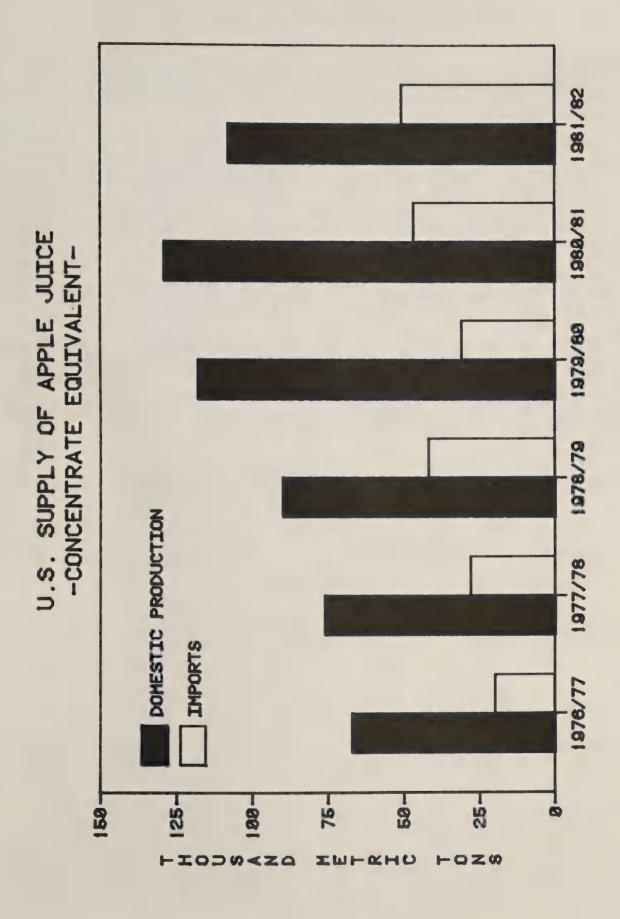
U.S. imports of Argentine apple juice were 21,540 metric tons (32.2 million single strength equivalent gallons) in 1981/82 (July-June), which was equal to 42 percent of total imports. Imports from Argentina in July-March 1982/83 were 18,260 tons, up 54 percent from the same period last season. Despite the increase, the Argentine share of U.S. imports declined to 27 percent compared to 34 percent during last season's comparable period.

According to U.S. Bureau of Census data, the price of U.S. imported apple juice during 1982 averaged \$1.53 per single-strength gallon equivalent, a considerable increase from the 1981 average of \$0.73 per gallon. (These prices are f.o.b. or f.a.s. exporting country.) Imported apple juice prices have returned to more normal levels during the first 3 months of 1983, as worldwide supplies are plentiful.

The East Coast is the point of arrival for about 75 percent of U.S. imported CAJ. The remainder goes primarily to the West Coast (roughly 14-17 percent), with lesser amounts destined for Gulf Ports and the Great Lakes Area.

Kathleen Moore (202) 382-8896.





#### SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE DRIED FRUIT SITUATION

<u>Production</u>: Output of dried fruit (raisins, prunes, apricots, currants, peaches and pears) in major Southern Hemisphere producing countries is expected to decline by 10 percent in 1983. Production in 1982 was up by 34 percent over 1981.

Southern Hemisphere <u>raisin</u> production—including sultanas but not currants—is forecast to fall well below the 1982 level because of a 17 percent drop in Australian output. Total availability of Southern Hemisphere raisins, however, will be about the same as last year because of larger carryin stocks in Australia. Although dry weather reduced berry size in Australia, overall fruit quality appears good with a higher than normal sugar content. Rapidly increasing production costs, especially for harvest labor, could limit Australian output of raisins in future years. A record harvest is expected in South Africa because of favorable weather and an upswing in bearing acreage. The 1980 to 1983 period is regarded as a period of consolidation for the South African dried fruits industry. Considerable future growth is likely.

In Argentina, raisin production in 1983 is expected to exceed output in 1982 because of the greater availability of fresh grapes and a reduced diversion to wine. An increase in output is also forecast in Chile as more plantings established during the 1978-80 period reach maturity. However, future increases may be tempered by steadily rising production costs and lower export prices which have discouraged new plantings since 1981.

RAISINS: STOCKS, PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS IN SELECTED SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES, 1981-83 (1,000 metric tons)

•	BEC	GINNING	STOCKS	:		PRODUC	TION			EXPO	ORTS
Country :	1981	1982	: 1983	17:	1981	: 1982	: 1983 1	<del>/</del> :	1981	: 1982	1983 1/
			•	:		:	:	•		:	
:				•							
Argentina:	3.7	2.7	1.9	:	5.5	6.0	8.0	:	1.7	1.9	3.0
Australia 2/:	18.6	17.9	28.2		55.8	90.2	75.0		31.4	54.4	62.5
Chile:		. 2	.1	:	2.5	2.5	3.0	:	.5	2.3	2.5
South Africa 3/:	3.9	2.9	4.2		23.9	24.7	25.5	:	17.2	16.1	16.1
-:				•				:			
:								:			
Total:	26.6	23.7	34.4	•	87.7	123.4	111.5		50.8	74.7	84.1
:											

1/ Forecast. 2/ Includes lexia raisins (mostly muscats) which account for 7 to 10 percent of production and 4 to 7 percent of exports. 3/ Mainly Thompson seedless.

Commercial output of dried <u>prunes</u> in the major producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere is also expected to be down in 1983. Production in Argentina will be down by one-third because of excessive rainfall during flowering. A record low outturn is forecast for Australia due to drought conditions which severely affected the plum trees in New South Wales. In contrast, dried prune supplies from Chile and South Africa will expand as new plantings come into production.

DRIED PRUNES: PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS IN SELECTED SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES, 1981-83 (1,000 metric tons)

•		PRODUC	TION :	{	EXPORTS	
Country :	1981 :	1982 :	1983 1/:	1981 :	1982 :	1983 1/
Argentina:	7.5	9.0	6.0 :	5.6	6.5	5.5
Australia: Chile	3.0 5.0	.8 5.2	.5 : 5.5 :	3.7	.1	4.0
South Africa:	1.3	1.5	1.6 :			
Total	16.8	16.5	13.6 :	9.3	9.8	9.5

<sup>1/</sup> Forecast.

Trade: Southern Hemisphere raisin exports amounted to about 74,700 metric tons in 1982, much higher than in 1981 when 50,800 tons were exported, but still significantly below availability. Calendar 1981 exports were down because of adverse weather in Australia just prior to harvest and during the growing season.

Australia is the Southern Hemisphere's principal supplier of raisins for export. In 1982, sultana exports were up 78 percent from 1981 exports, but slightly below the 55,450 tons exported in 1980. As indicated below, sales to West Germany and the United Kingdom, among major markets, more than doubled between the two years, while those to Canada were up more than 79 percent.

RAISINS: AUSTRALIAN EXPORTS, BY TYPE AND DESTINATION, 1981 AND 1982 (Metric Tons)

:_	CALENDAR	YEAR 1981 :	CALENDAR	YEAR 1982
Country of destination :	Sultanas	: Lexia <u>1</u> /:	Sultanas	: Lexia <u>1</u> /
•		: :		:
Germany, Federal Rep. of.:	8,204	17 :	17,316	
Canada	6,719	244 :	12,047	303
United Kingdom:	2,673	757 :	7,133	701
New Zealand:	4,756	485 :	3,908	513
France:	1,001	:	2,132	25
Japan	1,965	436 :	2,722	417
Others	4,034	146 :	6,961	202
-		•		
Total	29,352	2,085 :	52,219	2,161

<sup>1/</sup> Mostly seeded muscats.

SOURCE: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Export allocations for sultanas from the 1983 season are expected to total 62,500 tons. This would leave the country with a relatively small carryover at the end of 1983--perhaps about 15,000 tons. In addition to servicing traditional markets, Australian exporters will be attempting to break into new areas in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Raisins form the bulk of South Africa's dried fruit exports. Between 1981 and 1982, exports of raisins dropped from 17,200 tons to 16,100 tons. They held up as well as they did because most sales were made before the initiation of the EC subsidy scheme for Greek raisins destablized the market. A devaluation of the South African rand helped minimize the effect of the recession in its export markets. For 1983, South African raisin exports are expected to remain essentially unchanged from 1982.

Argentine and Chilean exports of raisins nearly doubled (from 2,200 tons to 4,200 tons) between 1981 and 1982. Most exports went to other Latin American countries led by Brazil (for Argentina) and Peru (for Chile). Argentine and Chilean export availabilities are expected to be up again in 1983, but the severely depressed economies in Brazil and Peru are likely to adversely affect sales.

Exports of <u>prunes</u> from Southern Hemisphere countries are estimated at 9,800 tons in 1982, up 500 tons from 1981. The major supplier was Argentina with 6,500 tons, up 900 tons. Brazil is Argentina's major market, accounting for more than 84 percent of 1982 shipments. Calendar 1983 exports are expected to decline by 15 percent due to reduced supplies. Other exporters in 1982 included Chile with 3,282 tons, mainly to other Latin American markets, and Australia 121 tons, including 91 tons to New Zealand. South Africa is a net importer of prunes.

Other dried tree fruit crops are also produced and exported by Southern Hemisphere countries, especially South Africa. Exports from South Africa are likely to remain almost unchanged between 1982 and 1983.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA: DRIED FRUIT EXPORTS (1,000 Metric Tons)

Item :	1981	1982	1983 1/
Apricots	1,167 370 167 758	1,085 1,064 237 1,038	1,050 1,000 350 1,000
Total :	2,462	3,424	3,400

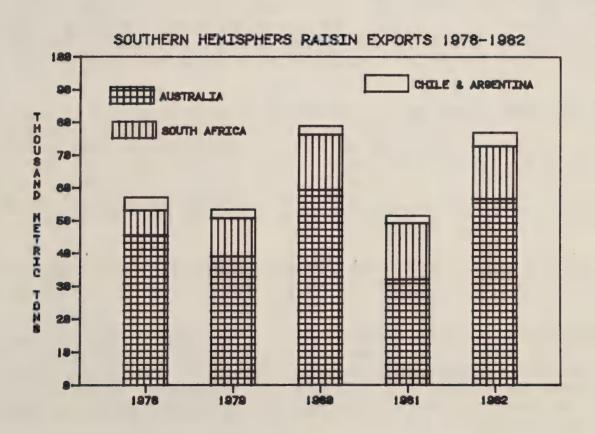
In 1982, Australia's exports of dried apricots totaled 494 tons, including 301 tons to the United States.

<u>Prices and Subsidies</u>: Only Australia's sultanas are now under a price support arrangement. The new 5-year plan, which covers the 1982-86 seasons, provides for a guaranteed price equal to 90 percent of the average returns anticipated from the 1981-83 seasons. Returns from domestic and export sales are pooled. In 1982, growers received an overall average return of about 830 Australian dollars (US\$805 at June 1982 exchange rate) per metric ton, sweatbox basis. The 1983 price has been set lower in foreign currency terms, but reduced freight rates and the 10 percent devaluation of the Australian dollar last February are expected to offset the lower export market price.

South African returns from local and export sales are also pooled and distributed to growers after selling costs are deducted. Average grower returns for sultana raisins are forecast at the U.S. equivalent of \$900 per ton for 1983 compared to \$840 for 1981 and \$820 for  $1982^{-1}$ . Returns for other raisins were substantially lower. In Argentina, export rebates for dried fruits were eliminated on May 5, 1982 and on July 5, 1982 a 10 percent export tax was imposed in order to increase government revenues. In September, 1982 the Central Bank re-established post-export financing loans for value added agricultural goods, including raisins and prunes. Such loans were removed in 1977.

C. Milton Anderson (202) 447-2252. Production estimates prepared by Bernadine Baker (202) 382-8891.

1/ U.S. dollar per rand exchange rates: 1981-1.07, 1982-.97, 1983-.93



#### HORTICULTURAL MARKETS

#### MARKETING IN THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Although the German Democratic Republic (GDR), commonly referred to as East Germany, is not now a market for U.S. horticultural products, it could become a customer in the medium to long term for certain products such as dried fruit, nuts, canned fruit and citrus juices. The GDR is already a market for relatively sophisticated food items from Western Europe. Decision makers seemingly realize the importance of improving and expanding the quantity and quality of consumer products available. Contact with Western products through West German television and radio helps to raise the level of consumer awareness of these products. Moreover, tourism is increasing, expanding demand for western foods.

GDR imports of fresh fruits and vegetables generally originate from other East European countries and Cuba. Some fresh and numerous processed products are imported from Western Europe. In 1981 the GDR imported from Western European countries excluding West Germany 128 tons of canned fruit, 730 tons of citrus, 15,000 tons of dried fruit, 50,000 tons of fresh and frozen vegetables, 100,000 tons of beer and wine, and over 600,000 tons of various prepared foods. Over 4,500 tons of wine and 350 tons of hops were imported from West Germany in 1982 under a clearing account arrangement (inner German trade).

Per capita food consumption is at a relatively high level. For example, per capita consumption of vegetables (excluding potatoes), at 95.1 kilograms is almost as high as U.S. consumption. Fruit per capita consumption, at 58 kilograms, is 90 percent of the U.S. level. Because of the limited availability of expensive non-food items, purchasing power and demand are fairly strong for luxury food items, even at relatively high prices. In addition, catering in state-owned firms and schools accounts for a significant part of the food consumed.

Neither the supply system nor the GDR economy in general encourages innovation with the latest labor-saving or luxury foods. The level of technology in industrial kitchens, restaurants and homes is less developed than in Western Europe but better than in most other Eastern European countries. The availability of food items is not subject to sudden change with the exception of a few selected items sold in the Delikat or Intershop stores or in the better restaurants. Moreover, marketing, food presentation, and promotion play a less important role than in Western Europe.

Food retailing is mostly through government-owned and controlled outlets. Three distinctly different types of outlets carry food product lines: grocery cooperatives; Delikat stores, and the Intershop chain.

The normal grocery store is called a Konsum Genossenschaft (grocery cooperative) or an HO Lebensmittel-Geschaeft (trade organization food store). They range from large supermarkets to small village stores. The shelves tend to be well stocked and staples are available at reasonable, highly subsidized prices. The products are often packaged unimaginatively and are of mediocre quality and selection.

The Delikat chain has over 600 outlets throughout the country and will soon expand to 750 stores. These small to medium sized specialty stores offer a wide variety of both imported and higher quality, domestically produced food items. Prices, in GDR marks, can flucluate to reflect costs while in the HO or Konsum store, prices remain officially fixed.

The Intershop chain carries imported "luxury" goods such as fancy canned meats and baked goods. The average citizen has access to these stores, but his purchasing power is limited because all sales are for "hard currency" through the so-called "Forum Cheques".

Good to excellent cuisine is available only at several western-style hotels or at strategically located restaurants for tourists and business traffic. Most of these restaurants belong to the Interhotel chain. GDR citizens have access to these restaurants and can pay in GDR marks or hard currency.

In 1982 questions arose regarding the credit worthiness of the GDR. However, the country pulled through the liquidity squeeze with its reputation for prompt repayment intact, and is now a good cash or credit market for a number or European exporters

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	983		8.201.257 -	353,166 -81	1,931,189	1239386 ** 114,320 **	741,951 +10	24,480	1,252,173 -2	436,982 -2	531,410 +5	318,985 +439 4,538,881 +8 32,362,675 +17	1.361.295 -3	14,046 **	580,594 +223 458,851 +100 69,839 -80	90,773 +	23,841 **	1,379,548 -64 81,809 +242	310158 - 40424 -11	594858 -1		2.471 -	18 -1	12	1,718	934					277			281			
OF U.S. EXPORTS	SEASON- APRIL	GALLONS	590	1,397,597								164.692 4.353.583 33.697.097			758,809 1,727,184 232,913		29871	3,203,164	7,157	3+020+645 115+490 8+523+485		1,865	254	129	1,015	680	651	425 51	36 11,137 900 17,099	1,393	11 13	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	*	39	858	1112	21012
: GUANTITY OF U.S. 1983, WITH DE MAIR		19	2.237.145 3.558.965			12,320						1,194,609		13,400	137,266	37,099	15,263	253,355	552	6959504		5 O B	.   81	188	377	90	36	26	945 59	225	7	117	7	2 5		1.	240
TURAL PORDUCTS	APRIL	8 8 8	2.464.887	976,995	371,933	1,765	92.852	1 4 000	244,355	2,913,102	72,611	20,5346 1,110,110 6,653,380	313,237		42,450 484,579 113,622					1.922.439		5.56							2,315 53 3,837		0 0 0 0	111			27	88.8	200
SELECTED HORTICULTURAL FORDUCTS APRIL.	COMMODITY/COUNTRY :	••	CANADA	BELGIUM-LUX	FRANCE	IRELAND	UNITED KINGCOM.					JAPAN		BELGIUM-LUX	GERMANY FED. REP	FINLAND	NOCKEN CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTR	TOTAL EURCPE	BERMUDA AND CARIBBEAN	OTHER COUNTRIES	POTATO FLAKES AND GRANULES :	TOTAL EC-TEN-00000000000000000000000000000000000	FRANCE	GRECE	UNITED KINGDOM	NORWEY VOICE	CIMER	LATIN AMERICA	JAPAN	OTHER DEHYDRATED POTATOES:	TOTAL EC-TEN-00000000000000000000000000000000000	NETHERLANDS SOURCESSES INSTED KINGDOM SOURCESSES	OTHER EUROPE	OTHER	BERMUDA AND CARIBBEAN	CAPPACOUNTS OF STREET OF S	#255 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2
CHANGE	P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P	PERCENT		-59 -30		-100 -60		100				+32 +36 +3 +18 +7 +21			-100 -100 -100 -100 -100 +79	100	100 -62	-100 -96 -40 -58	-93 +142	*** *323 *123 -36	000 0327	*** *151		100		-100 -34							, PAS/USDA				
EXPORTS. :	APRIL : 1983 ::		P 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	738,363	18,457	315,715	167,994	1 0	76+348	976,863	106053	81,158 914,169 2,563,530	196+050	1,050	000000000000000000000000000000000000000		65,055	41,166	7,661	533,602		53,460			1,250	118,810	199350	355,686					PRODUCTS DIVISION, PAS/USDA				
	SEASON- 1982	GALLONS		1,051,597	22,830	308,324	125,276	200	169	1.549	239		324		11,0005	11,305	172,459	23,452 98,346	5,763	55,233 961,693	70345	21,276	9+790	4.900	11	88,582	10.625	598,788					¥				
: QUANTITY 1983, WITH COI	1983			47,008	009	37,950	00 e 00	*	18,720	77,176	10,313	25.804 143.424 335.428	38+0+3	8 6		•		9,188	310	114,972	3,914	17,820	113	114871	!!	35,640	79107	41,721					BORTICULTURAL TROPIC				
LTURAL PRODUCTS	1982 : 1983			_				!				23,556 26,658 117,992 361,297			2, 4			3,488				11				3,093							an an				
SELECTED HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS: QUANTITY OF U.S. APRIL AD # Law APRIL 1983, WITH CHERRESORS	COMMODITY/COUNTRY SMAD BEGINNING OF SEASON STATEMENT OF S	•	CONCENTRATED JUICES ORANGE, HOT-PACK (NOV 1)	BELGIUM-LUX	FRANCE	GERMANY FED. REPOSSOSSOSSOSSOSSOSSOSSOSSOSSOSSOSSOSSOSS	UNITED KINGDOM	FINLAND	SEEDEN	TOTAL EUROPE	BERMUDA AND CARIBBEAN.	JOHEN COUNTRES	GRAPERUIT JUICE, CONC. NDV 1: CANADA CONC. NDV 1: TOTAL EC-TEN.	BELGIUM-LUX	GERMANY FED. REP. 6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6.6	UNITED KINGDOM	OTHER	LATIN AMERICA	JAPAN.	WORLD TOTAL	CANADA	BELGIUM-LUX	GRECE.	UNITED KINGDOM	SWEDEN	LATIN AMERICA	HONG KONG	OTHER COUNTRIES.					JUNE 1983				

FAS/

PRODUCTS DIVISION,

HORTICULTURAL AND TROPICAL

HORTICULTURAL AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS DIVISION, FAS/USDA

SELECTED HORTICULT	URAL PRODUCTS SEASON-APRIL	QUANTITY	OF U.S. EXP	PORTS.		
APRIL AND	SEASON-AFRIL	:			: CHA :From	NGE 1982
COMMODITY/COUNTRY	APRIL		SEASON-	APRIL	: :	
ANO :	1982 :	1983 :	1982	1983	: APR:	
BEGINNING OF SEASON :	:-	:-			:	APR
:		(IN METRIC	TONS)		: PER	CENT
GARLIC DEHYDRATED (JAN 1)		124 11211120				
CANADA	144	86	298	223	-40	-25
TOTAL EC-TEN	104	48	175	198	-54	+13
DENMARK		1	1 2		-100	-9
FRANCE	7	12	7	14	+71	+93
GERMANY, FED. REP	12	20	39	43	+64	+12
IRELAND	1		1 2	2 2	-100	+200
NETHERLANDS	60		62		-100	+83
UNITED KINGDOM	22	15	63	21	-33	-67
OTHER EUROPE :						
FINLAND	3		4	14	-100	+294
NORWAY		1	8	14	***	+67
OTHER	13	11	25	29	-16	+13
TOTAL EUROPE	120	61	212	255	-50	+20
LATIN AMERICA	33	1	270	61	-97	-77 -96
BERMUDA AND CARIBBEAN	16	3 6	92	19	-60	-20
OTHER COUNTRIES	12	17	113	132	+39	+16
WORLD TOTAL	325	174	1.010	694	-46	-31
ONIONS, DEHYDRATED (JAN 13	225	189	843	628	-16	-26
TOTAL EC-TEN	363	602	1.787	2,137	+66	+20
BELGIUM-LUX			24	8		-67
DENMARK	12	19 33	29 27	61	+61	
FRANCE	106	215	511	105	+103	+38
GREECE			5	6		+20
IRELAND	17	13	56	65	-26	+17
ITALY	19	21	34	39	+11	+15
NETHERLANDS	28 180	29 273	150 951	227 921	+51	-3
OTHER EUROPE	100	2.0	, , ,	/		
FINLAND	17		27		-100	
NORWAY	33 32	7 44	128 173	86 269	-79 +38	-33 +56
OTHER	110	136	382	566	+23	+48
TOTAL EUROPE:	555	789	2,498	3.154	+42	+26
LATIN AMERICA	21	5	68	77	-74	+12
BERMUDA AND CARIBBEAN		50	7	99	***	-100
JAPAN	202	'51	521	454	-75	-13
OTHER COUNTRIES	58	142	432	497	+144	+15
WORLD TOTAL	1,066	1.227	4,369	4,909	+15	+12
WINES. FROM FRESH GRAPES JAN:		(IN CAL	LONS)			
CANADA	353,509	297,081	1,516,554	1,262,987	-16	-17
TOTAL EC-TEN	177,677	127,547	468,625	423,352	-28	-10
BELGIUM-LUX	3,650 1,392	43,423	8,409 47,517	77.555 4.224	+93	+822
FRANCE	4.741	633	11.297	12.094	-87	+7
GERMANY. FED. REP:	18,105	9,608	45,625	44,613	-47	-2
IRELAND			2.719	5,985		+120
NETHERLANDS	7.585	1,632	1,651	7 300		-100
UNITED KINGDOM	142,204	69,560	331,423	7•392 271•489	-78 -51	-63 -18
OTHER EUROPE			,.20	_,,,,,,	-	
FINLAND			475			-100
NORWAY	409	12,481	1.050	624		-41
OTHER	7.358	7.357	5,676 74,929	14.911		+163
TOTAL EUROPE	185.444	147+385	550 755	467.928	-21	-15
LATIN AMERICA	63.830	19+901	200,637	102,322	-69	-49
BERMUDA AND CARIBEEAN	71,824	62,965	284,705	268,536	-12	-6
JAPAN	41.100	7.291 35.149	25,321 101,096	29,746 115,914	+20	+17
OTHER COUNTRIES	21.935	10.787	89,613	83,417	-51	-7
WORLD TOTAL	743,740	580,559	2,768,681	2,330,850	-22	-16

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